UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.6/1995/4
12 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Report of the Secretary-General

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* E/CN.6/1995/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the Commission on the Status of Women, in its resolution 38/10, on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session on progress in the preparations for the Conference and, in particular, on the further implementation of section V, on the information campaign, of Commission resolution 37/7.

2. The present report contains information on the status of the preparations of which the Secretariat has been apprised, at national, regional and international levels. It also includes information on activities being undertaken by non-governmental organizations. It mainly covers the period from August to December 1994, updating the reports submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.6/1994/10 and Corr.1), and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/327 and Corr.1).

I. CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS

A. Conference secretariat

3. The Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat, as the core secretariat for the Fourth World Conference on Women (hereinafter referred to as the Conference secretariat), has continued with the substantive preparations for the Conference, including research and policy analysis and the preparation of documentation, regional outreach and liaison, information and communication, coordination with the activities of non-governmental organizations and review of their applications for accreditation and technical and logistical preparation of arrangements for holding the Conference in Beijing, China.

4. Of the main substantive documents of the Conference, the 1994 world survey on the role of women in development, before the Commission at its thirty-ninth session in preliminary form (E/CN.6/1994/13), was completed in October. Several agencies and bodies of the United Nations system contributed to its preparation. An executive summary of the document was before the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, under item 88. The final version of the survey will be issued as a United Nations sales publication.

5. Similarly, the Secretariat completed its draft of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention, in accordance with the Committee's request and guidance provided at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions. After review, expansion and adoption by the Committee at its fourteenth session, in January/February 1995, the report will be submitted to the Conference, in accordance with Commission resolution 36/8.

6. The report of the Secretary-General on the impact of technical and financial cooperation to benefit women, which was prepared with support and funding from the World Bank, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNIFEM, was completed, ready for submission to the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

7. The eighteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women, for which the Conference secretariat serves as secretariat, took place from 3 to 4 March 1994 at United Nations Headquarters, preceding the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Inter alia, the Meeting proposed to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to regularize the Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women after the Fourth World Conference on Women to facilitate system-wide coordination of the follow-up to the Conference. The Organizational Committee of ACC agreed to postpone discussion on regularizing the status of the ad hoc body until after the World Conference.

8. The nineteenth Ad Hoc Inter-agency Meeting on Women is scheduled to be convened prior to the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

9. The informal ad hoc inter-agency advisory committee on the Conference, which was set up at United Nations Headquarters to advise on the preparations for the Conference and to ensure effective coordination, has continued to meet. Its meetings have facilitated timely receipt of contributions from the United Nations system to a variety of reports under preparation in the Conference secretariat, including the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ and the drafting process of the platform for action.

10. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General of the Conference undertook an official visit to South Africa to assess the status of preparations for the Conference.

11. The Secretary-General of the Conference also participated in several major meetings at which she provided briefings on the Conference and its preparations. Among others, she addressed the following meetings:

(a) Nordic Forum (Turkku, Finland);

(b) United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, Egypt);

(c) Ninety-second Inter-Parliamentary Conference (IPU) (Copenhagen, Denmark);

(d) WHO Global Commission on Women's Health (Washington, D.C.);

(e) UNESCO Consultative Committee on Women (Paris);

(f) Round table on Women's Economic Potential to Overcome Poverty, held by the German Foundation for International Development (Bonn, Germany).

12. The Secretary-General and members of her staff attended the five regional preparatory meetings for the Conference (see sect. D below).

13. Forums for non-governmental organizations were held immediately prior to four of the regional conferences. The Secretary-General of the Conference addressed each of them. Input from these events was made available to the regional preparatory conferences. The NGO Forum for the Jakarta Conference had been held in November 1993 in Manila.

14. In accordance with the youth strategy developed by the Conference secretariat, which aims at ensuring the involvement of young people in the Conference and its preparatory process, youth workshops were convened in conjunction with each of the five regional preparatory conferences. Working from the respective regional draft programmes of action, they provided their specific comments for consideration by the regional preparatory meetings.

15. The secretariat intends to convene a similar youth workshop in conjunction with the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and at the Conference itself.

16. The Conference secretariat has organized, participated in and contributed to a number of meetings considered to be of relevance for drafting documentation requested by the intergovernmental bodies in the preparatory process, including the following:

(a) Expert group meeting on gender, education and training;

(b) Expert group meeting on women and economic decision-making;

(c) Expert group meeting on gender and the agenda for peace;

(d) Expert group meeting on institutional and financial arrangements for implementation and monitoring of the platform for action;

(e) Consultation for non-governmental organizations from Eastern European countries;

(f) Conference on traffic in persons.

17. The Secretary-General of the Conference has continued to seek additional voluntary contributions to the trust fund established for Conference preparations and for the participation of the least developed countries in the Conference and its preparatory meetings, as requested in Assembly resolution 48/108. Voluntary contributions from several member States have been received for the purpose of facilitating the participation of governmental representatives in the Conference and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

18. The Assembly decided in its resolution 49, that in order to support developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, each of the least developed countries, to the extent that extrabudgetary funds permit, may be provided from the trust fund established for the Conference with travel expenses and, on an exceptional basis, daily subsistence allowance for representatives attending the thirty-ninth session of

the Commission and for the Conference itself. Following the adoption of the resolution, the Secretary-General initiated the necessary steps to implement it.

19. The Expert Group on Women in Development - a subsidiary body of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - continues to coordinate OECD members' support to developing countries in their preparations for the Conference. Regular status report updates aimed at circulating and sharing information on progress made at various levels, including funding requests received, have been prepared and made available to the members of the Group and other interested parties.

20. In accordance with Commission resolution 38/10, the Secretary-General convened, after discussions with the Bureau, informal open-ended consultations to exchange views on the draft of the platform for action, in conjunction with the consideration of the item on the advancement of women by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

21. The consultation in conjunction with the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council took place on 18 July. In addition to a briefing note, the Secretary-General of the Conference gave an oral progress report on activities of the Conference secretariat. A large number of delegations participated in the consultation.

22. A second set of consultations was held, in conjunction with the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, from 7 to 9 December 1994, after the conclusion of the last of the regional preparatory conferences and immediately after the conclusion of the general debate on the item on the advancement of women in the Third Committee.

23. Each of the meetings was devoted to an exchange of views on specific sections of the draft platform for action. On the basis of the views expressed during the consultations, the texts contained in the annex to Commission resolution 38/10 and taking into account the relevant results of the regional preparatory meetings, the Secretary-General further refined the draft of the platform for action, for consideration by the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

24. At its thirty-eighth session the Commission accredited for participation in the Conference 102 non-governmental organizations that are not in consultative status with the Council or on the roster. The organizations were notified of their accreditation by the secretariat. Further information concerning the logistics of participation in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission and in the Conference will be communicated to them in due course. After reviewing the applications for accreditation, the Conference secretariat prepared a list of non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations that would be proffered to the Commission for accreditation at its thirty-ninth session, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 48/108. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council have been asked to notify the Conference secretariat as soon as possible if they wish to attend the Conference.

25. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/108, the Conference secretariat has continued to disseminate widely information concerning the

process of accreditation. At the request of delegations at the informal consultations convened from 7 to 9 December, a note on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process was made available by the secretariat. Information on the preparations for the NGO Forum on Women was made available by its organizers.

26. The Conference secretariat continues to liaise closely with the NGO Planning Committee for the NGO Forum on Women '95 and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York.

B. Information and communication

27. The Conference secretariat continues to produce and distribute the newsletter entitled Women on the Move, which provides updated information on Conference preparations. The newsletter is now published every two months, with a new design. The newsletter is widely distributed to national committees, United Nations field offices, non-governmental organizations, member States and the media; it is also distributed electronically through TogetherNet and the APC network. Published in the six official languages of the United Nations, it also contains a regularly updated calendar of events of which the Secretariat has been apprised.

28. Three databases containing updated records of non-governmental organizations, institutions, individuals and the media have been set up by the Conference secretariat, and information packets have been distributed.

29. There has been considerable increase in the requests for information from the general public and the media and for print, television and radio interviews about the Conference. During the reporting period, the Secretary-General of the Conference has undertaken a full schedule of media interviews, including a television special for China television. Regular briefing sessions for the media are held. The Secretariat has begun to issue its own press releases. They covered three of the expert group meetings and other Conference materials.

30. In accordance with the United Nations-system preparations for the Conference, the Department of Public Information has developed and is implementing an information strategy. It was developed with input from United Nations agencies and the Conference secretariat and focuses on raising awareness of the Conference, its priority themes, and the critical areas of concern defined in the draft platform for action.

31. The strategy specifically addresses a number of target audiences and places primary emphasis on print and broadcast media individuals and organizations in both mainstream and non-mainstream traditions. The strategy also targets the United Nations system, women's and grass-roots organizations, youth, academia, and the non-governmental organization community. Through language adaptations and reprints coordinated by the Department's senior information officer in Beijing, the strategy also addresses the particular requirements of the host country audiences.

32. The core of the Department's efforts to provide print materials to publicize and provide historical, practical, and logistical information on the Conference includes production and distribution of a pre-Conference brochure, Conference backgrounders, and a series of fact sheets.

33. The Department of Public Information continues to produce and disseminate a series of feature articles in cooperation with United Nations agency partners, including the following: women and literacy; women and AIDS; women and violence; women and poverty under structural adjustment; women and statistics; women's non-governmental organizations and the NGO Forum; women and natural disaster preparedness; women and politics; women and economic decision-making; women and the media.

34. The Department is producing a number of pamphlets to provide concise information on other Conference-related themes, including a summary of the draft platform for action, and a pamphlet on the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women. 2/ The official Conference poster will be issued in six languages and will be produced in December 1994.

35. Preparations are under way for the Conference press kit, which will be issued in July 1995 in English, French and Spanish; it will be translated into Chinese in Beijing.

36. Audio-visual materials produced in connection with the Conference include at least six editions of UN in Action, focusing on women, the production and placement of radio and television spots, editions of World Chronicle featuring Conference and Conference-related authorities, and regular and special radio programmes, including the weekly series Women.

37. The Department of Public Information continues to provide assistance to a number of outside audio-visual productions, including an independent Canadian production company for two one-hour programmes to be aired prior to the Conference. These materials will also be available to the Department for adaptation into a half-hour programme incorporating Conference footage for further use and distribution after the Conference.

38. The Department provided assistance to each of the five regional preparatory conferences, including media liaison, print and audio-visual coverage, and supplied press kits and information materials related to the Conference and its themes.

39. A number of other outreach and informational activities have been organized and are being implemented by the Department, including assistance for local language adaptation for various products, media encounters, identification of and assistance to eminent persons and advocates promoting the Conference, and coordination of press briefings, publication launches, and the adaptation of the travelling exhibit for Beijing.

40. The Department is also supporting outside publications including a book on women in politics, based on the Department's Women and Literacy programme in September 1994, and a collection of feature articles related to the Conference in a small book format.

41. To integrate the Conference into the other ongoing activities of the United Nations, the Department is highlighting Conference-related themes in special and commemorative events in 1995, including International Women's Day and World Environment Day. In addition, it has been liaising with cultural institutions (e.g., Women Make Movies and the Museum of Women's Art) in connection with the Conference.

C. National level

42. As at 15 December 1994, the Secretary-General had been formally apprised of the establishment of 107 national committees for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Other sources indicate that over 150 national committees have been established.

43. The role and importance of national reports that gather facts, assess obstacles and identify priorities for concrete action has been stressed repeatedly by the Commission, as well as by the Assembly. In its resolution 49/161, the Assembly reiterated its appeal to countries that have not yet done so to compile their national reports in earnest and to forward them to the secretariat of the Conference.

44. The national reports that have already been received by the Conference secretariat have been very valuable in the preparation of documents that will be before the Conference, including the second review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, and the platform for action. Member States may wish to make their national reports available at the Conference, at their own expense, as a way of sharing experience with regard to the advancement of women.

45. As at 15 December, the Conference secretariat had received national reports from 125 member States. Two permanent observers and 17 others also have submitted their national reports to the Conference secretariat.

D. Regional level

46. Regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women were held in the five United Nations regions under the auspices of the respective regional commissions, in some cases as part of previously scheduled regional meetings. The five regional preparatory conferences included:

(a) Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, Jakarta, 7-14 June 1994;

(b) Sixth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mar del Plata, 26-30 September 1994;

(c) High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe, Vienna, 17-21 October 1994;

(d) Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Amman, 6-10 November 1994;

(e) Fifth African Regional Conference on Women, Dakar, 16-23 November 1994.

47. Each of the regional preparatory conferences adopted a regional platform or plan of action. These texts were before the Commission in document E/CN.6/1995/5 and Addenda. They are:

(a) Jakarta Declaration and Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific;

(b) Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001;

(c) Regional Platform for Action - Women in a Changing World - Call for Action from an ECE Perspective;

(d) Arab Plan of Action for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2005;

(e) Dakar Declaration and African Platform for Action.

48. Information on additional activities carried out by the regional commissions since August is given below, by region.

1. Africa

49. In preparation for the regional conference, ECA organized five subregional workshops aimed at sensitization and consensus-building, and designed to assist member States in the preparation of national reports. Two expert group meetings were held (Tunis, June 1994; Addis Ababa, October 1994) to prepare the draft African platform for action.

50. ECA undertook extensive information and communication activities in order to publicize widely the regional conference. They included:

(a) Brochures and pamphlets on the conference and a periodic newsletter on preparatory activities at the regional level were published and widely disseminated throughout the region and world wide;

(b) A six-minute radio publicity spot targeted to rural women was prepared prior to the Conference in conjunction with the Union of Radio and Television Stations of Africa (URTNA) and disseminated to all radio stations in the region;

(c) A two-day seminar for journalists covering the conference was organized in Dakar prior to the conference;

(d) Extensive coverage of the conference itself included daily press releases, radio and TV coverage, locally and through satellite, to all media agency users, daily press conferences for all journalists of local and

international media agencies on the proceedings, and press conferences by, inter alia, the Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference, various United Nations agencies, and several African women's associations.

51. A documentary on the Conference is currently being edited and produced by URTNA and will be available on video cassette.

2. Asia and the Pacific

52. With the view to accelerating the implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and the preparations for the World Conference, the ESCAP secretariat organized a regional meeting of national coordinating bodies of non-governmental organizations at Bangkok from 29 November to 2 December 1994 in collaboration with the Asia and the Pacific NGO Working Group.

53. The ESCAP secretariat is organizing a regional meeting on strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women at Manila from 15 to 18 December 1994, in collaboration with the National Commission on the Role of Filipina Women. The meeting will identify problems in implementing the Jakarta Declaration in each country, discuss ways to overcome them and formulate recommendations for strengthening national machineries for the advancement of women.

54. ESCAP organized a series of national workshops in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Papua New Guinea, and the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the establishment of women's information networks. Another workshop will be held in Nepal in January 1995. The implementation of the Jakarta Declaration and preparations for the Fourth World Conference were also major concerns of the participants.

55. As part of the preparation for the Beijing Conference and implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, ESCAP is producing a video on issues contained in the Jakarta Declaration. The video will be available in various languages, including local languages, subject to availability of funding.

56. ESCAP plans to organize an expert group meeting in Bangkok in February 1995, to complete ESCAP's contribution to the Fourth World Conference, in line with the draft platform for action.

3. Europe

57. In preparation for the regional meeting, the ECE secretariat held regular consultations with member States, United Nations bodies, other intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. It prepared a total of six substantive reports for the meeting.

58. A preliminary draft of the regional platform for action was prepared by the secretariat and examined by an expert group in June 1994. A revised draft was considered by an intergovernmental meeting in September 1994, the outcome of which was put before the Regional Preparatory Meeting in Vienna. United Nations

bodies were consulted at two meetings, in February and September 1994. Non-governmental organizations were involved at all stages of the preparatory process, and at the meeting itself.

59. More than 1,200 persons took part in the Meeting, including the representatives of 45 member States, 11 observer States of ECE, and representatives of 299 non-governmental organizations.

60. Part V of the regional platform emphasizes that the follow-up to and implementation of the platform should be carried out primarily by the existing regional organizations, such as the ECE, the Council of Europe, OECD, CSCE, and the European Union. The platform also describes the regional role to be played by the United Nations system in implementing and monitoring the strategic objectives, in close cooperation with other global and regional organizations.

61. With regard to ECE's role in implementation and follow-up, the platform asks it to mainstream women's issues and the gender perspective within its existing mandate and activities, including statistics and economic analysis. The establishment of mechanisms and processes to ensure such implementation and follow-up should be considered by ECE at its next annual session, which will be held in April 1995.

4. Latin America and the Caribbean

62. The Regional Programme of Action for the Women of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1995-2001, was adopted by consensus at the sixth regional conference. Complementary strategic actions to be included in the Programme were finalized at the open-ended twentieth meeting of the presiding officers of ECLAC, held at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago, from 16 to 18 November 1994. The meeting was open to all countries that wished to participate. The enormous interest in the event by the countries of the region was shown by the fact that 445 proposed amendments or additions to the strategic actions and new actions to be added to the Programme were submitted at Mar del Plata, thus obliging the conference to lengthen the period of deliberations.

63. In 1995, in addition to disseminating the Regional Programme of Action, the ECLAC secretariat plans to issue a publication that includes the substantive documents of the Mar del Plata meeting and a summary of the national reports as a contribution to the Fourth World Conference on Women.

E. Intergovernmental level

64. At its forty-ninth session, the General Assembly considered the item on the advancement of women from 1 to 6 December. A total of 75 speakers - 69 member States, 2 observers, 2 intergovernmental organizations, and 2 United Nations bodies - took the floor.

65. In resolution 49/161, on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Assembly, inter alia, requested that the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women be submitted to the

Assembly at its fiftieth session for consideration and action and requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Assembly, also at its fiftieth session, a report on follow-up to the Conference, taking into consideration the recommendations made at the Conference.

F. Host country arrangements

66. The host country agreement for the Fourth World Conference on Women was signed in Beijing on 14 September by Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations on behalf of the United Nations, and Mr. Qian Qichen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of China, on behalf of China.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

67. In general, the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system continue to implement ongoing activities launched since the inception of the preparatory process for the Fourth World Conference on Women. An account of such activities was included in the reports of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Conference submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session (E/CN.6/1994/9 and Corr.1), and to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/327 and Corr.1). The present report updates information previously provided to the Commission and the Assembly, and reports on new initiatives started since August.

A. United Nations

1. Statistical Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

68. Research, data compilation and analysis for the special issue of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics for the Conference were completed in December 1994. Final publication in all languages is scheduled for early June 1995.

69. A complete update of the Women's Indicators and Statistics Database (WISTAT), supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was completed in August, in close cooperation with the regional commissions. WISTAT is the main data source for The World's Women and will be issued in early January 1995 on diskettes and CD-ROM. The manual in preparation by the Division for national use on how to compile and organize statistics on gender issues and how to present tables and charts and write up the quantitative analysis was completed and will be published in the first half of 1995. Efforts are also under way to organize training workshops in gender statistics and an exhibit of national and international gender statistics publications at the Conference.

2. Population Division, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

70. The Population Division, in collaboration with UNFPA, provided substantive support for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) The many gender-related recommendations contained in the ICPD's Programme of Action also have relevance for the World Conference for Women.

71. Gender-specific statistics and analytic studies from the Population Division have been employed in preparations for the Conference in various ways, including use in the new edition of The World's Women. The WISTAT database also contains a variety of data series from the Population Division. The Division regularly produces population estimates and projections, by age and sex, for all countries and areas of the world, and such estimates and projections were recently published separately for rural and urban areas. Apart from their direct interest, these statistics serve as "denominators" for gender-disaggregated estimates and projections in areas such as school enrolment and employment which are produced within and outside the United Nations system. The Division also regularly monitors fertility, contraceptive practice and mortality levels, by sex, and government policies related to population concerns. Special studies and expert meetings in recent years have dealt with female migration, education and fertility, abortion policy, gender differences in age at marriage, and living arrangements of women and children, including women-headed households. Ongoing studies deal with sex differences in infant and child mortality, among other topics.

3. Department for Development Support and Management Services

72. The Department has signed an agreement with the Government of Israel to conduct a workshop on strategies for enhancing the participation of women in the development process. Approximately 25 women from countries in Northern Africa will be trained on issues relating to community development and programme design.

4. United Nations Centre for Human Rights

73. Ongoing and planned activities of the Centre for Human Rights are contained in the report of the Secretary-General on a joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre (E/CN.6/1995/CRP.2).

5. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

74. An UNCTAD expert group meeting on women in development in the least developed countries will be convened in Niamey, Niger, from 24 to 26 January 1995. The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared background studies for the meeting. Moreover, a number of selected country case-studies will be presented to the meeting on topics, including: family planning through the empowerment of women in Madagascar; opportunities and constraints for female petty traders in Sierra

Leone; involving women in social forestry programmes in Nepal; and female education programmes in Niger.

75. With respect to gender aspects of poverty alleviation, the UNCTAD secretariat's current research work shows that women from poor households figure prominently among income-earners in export-oriented small-scale enterprises and non-traditional agro-export producers. Research being carried out by the secretariat on how to make official development assistance (ODA) more cost-effective in reaching the poor is examining ways to empower women through improved access to education, health, credit and other services. The findings of these two research projects will be presented and discussed at the third session of the Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation which will meet in June 1995.

76. The UNCTAD secretariat continues to provide substantive support to the deliberations of the Working Group on Gender, Science and Technology of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which is due to meet in July 1995. In collaboration with the International Development Research Centre of Canada, UNCTAD's Division for Science and Technology has been involved in the preparation and compilation of a statistical database on gender, science and technology, which has involved elaborating methodological issues and procedures. Furthermore, the first draft of the 24-page report of the Working Group on Gender, Science and Technology has been completed, the final version of which will serve as the critical input on this topic to the platform of action of the upcoming Conference.

6. International Trade Centre (ITC)

77. In December 1992 ITC launched its ongoing world-wide survey identifying the present status and needs of national machineries and women's business organizations in promoting the integration of women in the various facets of domestic, regional and global trade. The results are contained in ITC's WITD (women in trade development) database which will be available at the Conference.

78. ITC submitted reports on the integration of the trade dimension into gender-sensitive sustainable development strategies and programmes to three regional preparatory conferences (Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Africa), including the interim analysis of ITC's world-wide survey. ITC intends to prepare the regional reports for Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia. Its final report on this topic, giving a global perspective and region-specific reports, will be presented at the Conference.

79. ITC participated in the European and African regional preparatory conferences in an effort to ensure the inclusion of the trade dimension, in particular as it complements entrepreneurship, including small and medium-sized enterprise and private-sector development.

80. ITC organized with the Preferential Trade Area (PTA) secretariat and several women's business associations and chambers of commerce the first buyers/sellers meeting for women in business in the PTA region. The meeting was held from 10 to 13 October 1994 in Nairobi, within the framework of the PTA

Trade Development and Promotion Programme. More than 120 enterprises from 17 countries in the subregion participated. The meeting also formulated recommendations for follow-up actions ensuring an active participation of women in business in intra-PTA trade expansion activities and in external trade-related issues of the African Platform for Action, which were subsequently presented to the regional preparatory conference.

81. In addition, an ITC Handbook on Women, Entrepreneurship and Trade is planned for presentation at the Conference, as well as an information bulletin to ITC's WITD network of correspondents and to the international community.

7. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

82. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has, to date, undertaken a broad range of awareness creation, advocacy and operational activities in support of the upcoming Fourth World Conference.

83. The International Conference on Population and Development, which took place in Cairo (5-13 September 1994), underscored the centrality of women. It clearly recognized that the empowerment of women was an important end in and of itself and that the goal of sustainable human development would only be reached with the full and equal participation of women in all aspects of the development process. Principle 4 of the Programme of Action, adopted by the Conference 3/ specifically addresses this issue.

84. As one of its principal preparatory activities for the upcoming World Conference, UNFPA is fully committed to assuring that the relevant portions of the Programme for Action are integrated into the Beijing platform for action. Indeed, many of the quantitative goals of the ICPD Programme of Action directly pertain to the aims of the World Conference - namely, the reduction of maternal, infant and child mortality; the provision of universal access to education, particularly for girls; and the provision of universal access to a broad range of quality reproductive health care and family planning services.

85. The Fund participated in the various expert group meetings and, in particular, provided funding to UNCTAD to organize the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries. UNFPA has helped the Women's Feature Services, a news network, to undertake special initiatives focusing on the World Conference.

86. At the regional level, UNFPA was represented by senior staff from Headquarters and field offices at all the regional preparatory meetings. Recognizing the importance of the participation of non-governmental organizations, UNFPA provided assistance to members of women's non-governmental organizations to enable them to take part in those regional meetings. In connection with the regional meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNFPA extended funding to the Commonwealth Medical Association to conduct a round table on women's reproductive health.

87. During the coming months, UNFPA will intensify its activities in support of the Conference. As part of its awareness creation activities, the Fund's 1995 State of the World's Population will focus on the empowerment of women. The initial section of the report considers in some details the pathway "from Cairo to Beijing". UNFPA will continue its technical and financial support to the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat for the upcoming edition of The World's Women, one of the official Conference documents, and for the upgrading of WISTAT, the database on women. UNFPA will assist the Global Commission on Women's Health, particularly in connection with its special activities for the Conference.

88. With respect to country-level activities, UNFPA's Executive Director has directed all UNFPA field offices to work closely with national committees and non-governmental organizations in preparation for the Conference and the NGO Forum, taking place at the same time. UNFPA will provide funding to enable women to participate in the final session of the Preparatory Committee and in the Conference itself.

89. As part of its efforts to facilitate the Conference process, UNFPA has arranged a number of briefings between the ICPD secretariat and the secretariat of the Conference. In its advocacy and operational initiatives, UNFPA will continue to collaborate with other United Nations agencies and organizations and with women's non-governmental organizations at the international and local levels.

8. United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

90. A project entitled "technical cooperation and women's lives: integrating gender into development policy", funded by UNDP and implemented by UNRISD, is designed to strengthen national capacity to undertake gender analysis and to integrate gender into mainstream development policy. Drawing on activities of phase I of this project, UNRISD is preparing three substantive papers, to be issued together in book form, to be presented at the Conference. The three papers cover interrelated themes.

91. The first paper is an overview of the conceptual shifts in the women and development discourse over the past two decades, focusing in particular on the shift from women in development to gender and development (WID/GAD), its reasons and consequences. The second paper provides an analytical account of donor agency approaches to WID/GAD, based on secondary and primary material. The third paper provides a substantive discussion of governmental approaches to integrating gender into the state development processes, based on experiences in six countries included in phase I of the project.

9. United Nations International Drug Control Programme

92. Since 1992, the Drug Control Programme has produced a series of reports and studies on women, drug abuse and drug control, and has undertaken other activities, details of which were reported earlier.

10. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

93. The Institute has completed the preparation of an international bibliography on violence in the family, focusing on violence against women and children. The bibliography comprises a collection of data and a qualitative analysis of the literature collected. A summary of the work will be published in the series Issues and Reports.

94. The Institute's analysis of the data on women victims of crime in developing countries, collected during the 1992-1994 International Crime (Victim) Survey, will be ready for distribution at the beginning of 1995. The analysis will compare 13 cities/urban areas in developing countries and will present, among other information, data on the circumstances surrounding sex crimes, reasons for not reporting, satisfaction with police work, existing mechanisms of victim support, and fear of crime. Part of the material was incorporated in the updated edition of The World's Women.

95. The above-cited reports will also be presented at the forthcoming Ninth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The issue of violence against women will be discussed during the workshop on the prevention of violence under the priority topic "Crime prevention strategies".

11. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

96. UNHCR focal points at the national level contributed to the national reports on the situation of refugee women in their countries, based on consultations with the refugees and UNHCR's implementing partners (non-governmental organizations and government ministries). Based on national reports, UNHCR focal points have produced reports on the situation of refugee women in Asia, Central America and the Middle East, and position papers on Africa and Europe. This bottom-up approach aims at exposing UNHCR staff and implementing partners to policy makers in the field of women in development, whom they would not necessarily meet in the normal course of their duties. It is expected that this two-way information exchange will greatly contribute to an understanding of refugee women's issues, at both the national and the international levels.

97. UNHCR's Public Information Section has prepared a calendar, a video, posters, and greeting cards with a focus on refugee women.

12. United Nations Children's Fund

98. UNICEF regional and country offices were actively associated with all five regional preparatory conferences for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The main areas for support included the preparation of country reports and information materials, networking among non-governmental organizations, public awareness campaigns and mobilization of women's groups around gender issues. The central theme of UNICEF's advocacy was on the elimination of gender

disparities from the life-cycle perspective, priority action for girls, capacity-building and the empowerment of women and girls.

99. At headquarters, UNICEF's task force for the Conference works closely with the Conference secretariat as an active member of the ad hoc inter-agency committee and participant in the expert group meetings on selected themes and the regional conferences. UNICEF is collaborating with other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in the organization of special events at the NGO Forum and Youth Consultation at Beijing, including the production of special information materials.

13. United Nations Development Fund for Women

100. UNIFEM has launched a visibility campaign to raise the awareness of donors and non-governmental organization partners, through the mainstream media, on women-in-development issues and the Fourth World Conference. To begin this process, UNIFEM implemented a media advocacy project to train its professional staff to interact with the media and incorporate information and communications throughout its regular programme and project work.

101. UNIFEM is producing information and advocacy materials, including a co-publication with United Nations/Non-governmental Liaison Service, on how non-governmental organizations can participate in United Nations world conferences and international decision-making, and a co-publication with UNICEF, on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and women's human rights. In addition, UNIFEM is sponsoring a world-wide magazine editors' campaign to encourage women's magazines to highlight women-in-development issues and the Conference in their publications leading up to 8 March, International Women's Day. Other materials include posters for the regional preparatory conferences.

102. UNIFEM prepared and organized press briefings, press kits, and exhibits on issues related to each regional preparatory conference, and has funded non-governmental organization newsletters, publications, and workshops, to provide regional information on the preparatory process for the Conference. Regional offices supported preparations of comprehensive non-governmental organization directories and country profiles to facilitate the information-sharing and to provide a regional perspective on the preparatory process. UNIFEM launched several poster, cartoon, and video competitions in the regions.

103. Through its umbrella project for the Conference, UNIFEM has put into operation more than 90 global, regional, and nationally based initiatives in preparation for the Conference, in collaboration with other development partners, including the Conference secretariat.

104. UNIFEM assisted in identifying key women's non-governmental organizations and networks, giving particular attention to new ones and supporting them with training, information, and opportunities to plan strategies and participate at all levels of the preparatory process. It has been funding and facilitating the participation of non-governmental organization members in the regional

preparatory meetings and has been funding their preparations for the Conference.

105. UNIFEM supported the Conference secretariat's youth strategy. It participated in the inter-agency group meeting for youth involvement, convened by the secretariat. It also assisted the secretariat in convening youth meetings prior to the regional preparatory conferences.

106. Part of UNIFEM's strategy for the Conference is to provide women with the skills and information they need to participate more effectively in international fora. To that end, UNIFEM conducted workshops on putting gender on the agenda of United Nations conferences, in Seoul, Beijing, and Dakar. The Technical Advisory Section initiated and facilitates a working group of non-governmental organizations involved in micro-lending to develop and implement strategies that will highlight women and finance at the Conference and NGO Forum. This International Coalition on Women and Finance, with over 20 internationally recognized non-governmental organizations as founding members, is instrumental in advocating for policies that provide women with increased access to financial resources.

107. With the placement of a special adviser on the Conference in the UNDP country office in Beijing, UNIFEM will contribute to effective coordination within the United Nations system and ensure that the main objectives of UNIFEM's strategy for the Conference are addressed.

14. United Nations Development Programme

108. UNDP continues to play key facilitation, coordination, advocacy and partnership-building roles in the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. UNDP's overall strategic thrust for the Conference is to build and strengthen national capacities for sustainable human development as it relates to the empowerment of women. Its contributions are designed to ensure full support to, and collaboration with, Governments, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations by stressing the following thematic areas for its contributions:

(a) Gender statistics and gender statistical methods and tools. For example, the 1995 Human Development Report will be on women;

(b) Gender, environment and sustainable human development;

(c) Women in situations of transition, such as economic recovery and political transition (as in Eastern Europe and Middle East) and conflict situations (as in Africa and Central America);

(d) Health issues, especially the impact on women coping with the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

109. At the national level, with its network of field offices in almost all developing countries, UNDP is participating in national preparations for the Conference in all the regions. UNDP Resident Representatives in the field offices have established task forces with broad representation from Governments

and non-governmental organizations to coordinate women-in-development (WID) activities in support of the Conference; provided financial and technical support to countries in all regions of the world in the preparation of national reports, including the collection and analysis of gender-disaggregated data; assisted in the translation and production of national reports. In many instances, UNDP's involvement in national preparations includes coordination of donor working groups for the Conference, participation in national WID task forces, and sponsorship of seminars, workshops and national conferences on women with respective national machineries, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

110. At the regional level, UNDP has worked collaboratively with the regional commissions to prepare for the regional preparatory conferences, in all of which UNDP participated. All UNDP regional bureaux have supported activities, such as sponsoring panel discussions and dialogue, providing technical support and encouraging non-governmental organization participation in the regional conferences. In addition, UNDP engaged participants in these regional preparatory activities in dialogue through the sponsorship of panel workshops and training sessions on relevant gender and development topics.

111. At the international level, at UNDP headquarters, a Fourth World Conference Working Group has been established, consisting of representatives from the Administrator's Office, the regional bureaux, the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, the Bureau for Resources and External Affairs, the Division of Public Affairs, the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (SU/TCDC), the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UN/CDF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO) etc. The Working Group is coordinating UNDP's preparations for the Conference in order to ensure complementarity of conference-related activities within the organization. The Working Group has reviewed and made substantive contributions to the draft platform for action and to the second review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies.

112. UNDP's Division of Public Affairs has prepared a plan to mobilize the press world wide to make WID/GAD issues part of the development debate and agenda. In China, the UNDP Beijing office continues to support the All China Women's Federation in the overall preparations and to provide other logistical support to agencies within the United Nations system.

15. United Nations Volunteers

113. At the regional level, UNV specialists have been placed in the secretariats of the regional commissions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Bangkok, to assist in strengthening capacity for coordinating and preparing the regional preparatory conferences. At ESCAP for example, the UNV specialists have assisted in the preparations for the regional conference by providing information and promotional skills, liaising with non-governmental organizations and assisting in the preparation of technical papers and reports. UNV provided some of its findings relating to civil society and public life and governance in Central and Eastern Europe and the economies in transition as a contribution to ECE for its regional preparations.

114. At the national level, international UNV specialists working together with national UNV specialists have provided support to selected least developed countries within the framework of projects funded through its Special Voluntary Fund. Using the Fund, UNV has been the main funding source in support of the establishment of a women's non-governmental organization coalition in one of the least developed countries.

16. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

115. INSTRAW is planning to conduct an expert group meeting on women and empowerment prior to the Conference.

116. Arrangements for activities to be conducted in conjunction with the Conference have been further reviewed and discussed with collaborating agencies. Some of the substantive framework was modified in accordance with the results of the regional preparatory conferences, which INSTRAW attended. These activities include a panel on women, water and environmental sanitation; a panel on time use of women and men; and a panel on women and communication media.

117. In addition to those reported previously, INSTRAW is currently completing a training package on women and sustainable development and a publication entitled "The migration of women: methodological issues in the measurement and analysis of internal and international migration". These will be made available at the Conference.

118. Posters, flyers and other public information materials are also being prepared for exhibition. A CD-ROM compilation of all the publications, training materials, technical reports and public information materials produced by INSTRAW is also being prepared for distribution at the Conference.

17. World Food Programme

119. WFP's activities in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women focus on country offices and counterparts. A number of field offices have contributed to the preparation of national reports and are identifying areas in which food aid and/or WFP advocacy can support priorities established for the Conference. WFP has also contributed to various subregional and regional preparatory activities.

120. WFP initiated a series of meetings on gender considerations in emergency situations; on economic restructuring and women's access to education, health and related services; on the persistent and growing burden of poverty on women and the strategies that local organizations adopted in collaboration with development agencies; and on violence against women arising from development activities that involve women in non-traditional areas.

121. WFP's Public Affairs Branch produced a radio programme on gender issues for grass-roots communities in each of the regions. Materials for media coverage have been prepared on how women use food aid to their advancement and what they

contribute to family, community and economic development. A loop-video, a photo kit, and a gender brochure are being prepared for presentation at the Conference and for use by country offices.

B. Specialized agencies

1. International Labour Organization

122. The activities carried out so far by the ILO in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women were reviewed by the ILO Governing Body at its 261st session in November 1994.

123. At the international level, the ILO continued to collaborate with the Division for the Advancement of Women on technical matters. The ILO's International Training Centre at Turin hosted the Expert Group Meeting on Gender, Education and Training (10-14 October 1994) and also contributed a technical background paper which covered women's access to vocational and technical training, including an analysis of the obstacles and possible lines of actions to tackle them.

124. At the regional level, the ILO attended all five regional preparatory conferences for the Conference.

125. At the national level, the ILO continued to provide technical advice to national preparatory committees in support of the preparation of national reports for the Conference; to encourage and support the participation of the ministries of labour, employers' organizations and the trade unions in the work of these committees; and to ensure that labour-related issues are adequately covered by the reports. The ILO continued to provide comments on some of the completed national reports to ensure adequate coverage of employment-related issues.

126. In October 1994, ILO convened two tripartite regional seminars - one on the problems of women workers in the Arab region (9-13 October 1994) and the other on women, work and poverty in Africa and the impact of economic restructuring on the employment, training and working conditions of women (24-28 October 1994). The tripartite symposium in the Arab countries identified a number of key problem areas for action in the fields of education, vocational guidance and training, employment, legislative provisions, reconciling work and family responsibilities, violence against women, the roles of government, employers and workers' organizations to promote women workers' rights and the empowerment of women through their participation and representation in these groups. The tripartite seminar in Africa emphasized the need for an integrated comprehensive strategy for promoting the situation of African women in the world of work. It produced an agenda for action and called upon the various bodies at the national, regional and international levels seriously to consider it in the formulation and implementation of their technical assistance and other programmes to assist African women.

127. An Asian subregional tripartite awareness-raising workshop on improving working conditions for women in economies in transition was held in Beijing

(7-11 November 1994). Other ongoing ILO activities for the World Conference include a Caribbean subregional tripartite seminar on equality of opportunity and treatment for workers with family responsibilities, Georgetown, Guyana (28 November-2 December 1994); a 52-minute documentary film, "Women and work"; working papers, books, an annotated bibliography on women workers, a training package on women's rights, and regular information bulletins to inform ILO staff and constituents about the preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

2. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

128. FAO has developed a public information strategy aimed at raising awareness and increasing knowledge of gender issues in agriculture and rural development. It is one of the main components of FAO's programme of activities for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Future planned activities include:

(a) Preparation of a set of graphics on rural women for electronic diffusion to journalists and media people;

(b) Posters on rural women in four languages;

(c) Information packet/press kit;

(d) Booklet on FAO activities in agricultural and rural development success stories, in four languages;

(e) Video shorts highlighting women's contributions to food production and agriculture, to be distributed to major media outlets.

FAO is also setting up a database on women in agriculture.

129. FAO elaborated a synthesis report for Africa on the basis of data from nine country sectoral reports on women in agriculture. A one-day technical workshop on women in agriculture and rural development was held in Dakar on 15 November. It prepared recommendations on rural women for the African regional preparatory conference.

130. FAO's regional preparatory activities for Western Asia are combined with the preparation of a regional plan of action for the integration of women in rural development in the Near East. A meeting is planned for early 1995 to complete the regional plan of action and discuss follow-up activities. A regional synthesis report on women in rural development was submitted to the regional preparatory conference. Two expert consultations, in November 1993 and in July 1994, were organized to support national and regional preparations. A regional paper on women, environmental and national resource management is now under preparation for distribution at the Conference.

131. A one-day regional consultative meeting for Europe took place in Germany in September 1994 to discuss the findings of the national sectoral reports and to produce recommendations on the mechanisms and policies required to address the needs of rural women in the region. The recommendations were presented at the regional preparatory meeting in Vienna.

132. FAO is in the process of preparing a regional paper on women in agro-based small enterprises with a focus on credit, legislation and marketing for the Asia and Pacific region.

133. With regard to the Latin American and Caribbean region, FAO held a subregional workshop on women, rural development and decentralization processes from 23 to 25 August 1994 in Venezuela. Together with national sectoral reports, it contributed to the regional document analysing the situation of rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean for presentation at the regional preparatory conference.

3. World Health Organization

134. Teams of WHO staff and members of the Global Commission on Women's Health, an advisory body to WHO, have attended each regional preparatory conference and actively lobbied for the inclusion of women's health in regional and global draft platforms for action. A working group of WHO staff has been formed to lay the preparatory groundwork for the Conference and attend it. Information is being collected on what WHO is currently doing to address women's major health problems throughout the life cycle and in all world regions from all relevant divisions within the Organization. One technical document will provide data on key issues affecting women's health. It will have a wide distribution both during and beyond the Conference. A WHO position paper will be prepared for the Conference itself, using photographs, charts and graphs. Other public information tools under preparation are a video portraying a range of women's health issues, posters and postcards.

135. A media and communications strategy is being planned for the Conference. It will include press releases and a press kit and a series of articles on various pressing women's health issues. A press conference will be held closer to the time of the Conference.

136. WHO will also participate in the Conference itself. A booth containing information and documents on women's health and WHO programmes to improve it will be available. More importantly, in order to spotlight the importance of women's health in their overall development, WHO has requested that a one-day colloquium on health be held during the Conference. The colloquium will allow WHO to bring women's health to the attention of persons in attendance. This event is expected to bring together a broad spectrum of governmental and non-governmental organization representatives interested in all aspects of women's development, health and well-being. A personality of international renown in the development field will serve as chairperson, with keynote addresses to be given by other international figures on critical aspects of women's health. Women's testimonials, music, poetry and pantomime will be featured in order to maximize the interest generated in women's health problems.

4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

137. UNESCO's Consultative Committee on Women held its second meeting on 13 and 14 October 1994. The Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women attended this preparatory meeting, which was presided over by UNESCO's Director-General. The Committee examined preparatory activities and discussed strategies for the follow-up to the Conference and the platform for action.

138. Concerning UNESCO's international symposium on women and the media, access to expression and decision-making, to be held from 28 February to 3 March 1995 in Toronto, seven regional preparatory workshops have been organized in the different regions of the world. Their recommendations will be presented at the symposium. An important part of those recommendations has already been integrated into the UNESCO's contribution to the draft platform for action and forwarded to the World Conference secretariat.

139. An international workshop on cultural changes in women's life cycle will take place at UNESCO headquarters, 16-18 January 1995. The result of this meeting will be presented at the Conference.

140. A high-level consultation on women's contribution in a culture of peace will be organized on 3 September 1995 in Beijing, with the participation of Heads of State, Nobel prize winners, and others to discuss and adopt a declaration on women's contribution to a culture of peace. It will be prepared by a meeting to take place from 24 to 27 April 1995, in Manila.

141. International Literacy Day, 8 September 1995, will be celebrated in Beijing, under the supervision of UNESCO.

142. Special activities will be organized on 13 September 1995 in Beijing with youth organizations and associations in the framework of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

5. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

143. Following its global study on women's participation in manufacturing, completed in 1993, UNIDO prepared five in-depth regional studies entitled "Women in manufacturing: participation patterns, determinants and future trends". They were conducted in close cooperation with the regional commissions to collect gender-disaggregated statistics, examine indicators of progress with regard to the advancement of women in manufacturing and, based on the analysis, to develop an action plan specifically designed for each region. The regional studies were presented at the respective regional preparatory conferences with a view to making the role and participation of women in industry and manufacturing more visible in the regional plans and programmes of action and ultimately in the platform for action to be adopted at the Conference in Beijing. The studies will be consolidated into a policy paper in which UNIDO's strategy for Beijing will be stipulated and action-oriented recommendations for follow-up to the Conference will be proposed. A workshop concerning the ECE region is planned for early 1995, in cooperation with the regional commission.

144. UNIDO convened an expert group meeting on women entrepreneurs in sustainable economic development in October 1994 in Yokohama. It adopted recommendations and an action plan to promote entrepreneurship development for women in Asia, including ASEAN countries, China, India, Sri Lanka, the Republic of Korea, and Japan, and to take initiatives to establish a stronger network of women in business and industry in the region.

145. UNIDO will prepare, for dissemination, exhibition materials, flyers, brochures, videos and other information and promotional materials for the Conference. An expert group meeting on women in industry is tentatively planned for June 1995.

6. International Fund for Agricultural Development

146. IFAD is involved in the preparations for the Conference on several fronts which have concentrated on original work and initiatives of long-term impact. Some of them are:

(a) Decision-making mechanisms in household and natural resource management: preparation of a comparative study (Morocco and Pakistan) on rural households' coping strategies in household and farm management in which the various roles and functions of women in decision-making processes are highlighted;

(b) Nutrition strategy: IFAD's strategy on nutrition, approved by its Executive Board in April 1994, will be a framework for addressing issues regarding household food security, both from a conceptual and implementation point of view;

(c) Women and poverty: an extensive study on rural women and poverty will be published for the Conference;

(d) Rural women in IFAD's projects: IFAD will prepare a review, in the form of data-sheets, of its projects, with particular emphasis on rural women, including an assessment of lessons learned;

(e) As a follow-up to the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, held in Geneva in 1992, IFAD has continued to provide support to the International Steering Committee responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Summit.

7. International Monetary Fund

147. IMF will continue to monitor events leading up to the Conference and to participate in related meetings. The Fund will also look forward to participating in the Conference itself.

148. Fund programmes are evolving, with growing recognition within the Fund of the social dimensions of structural adjustment, resulting in greater discussion of these issues with authorities and incorporation of policies relating to

social issues. As pointed out by the Managing Director of IMF in his address to the International Conference on Population and Development, one of the most important lessons we have learned over the past 20 years is that poverty reduction has been most rapid in countries which have provided themselves with a strong enabling environment, stable macroeconomic conditions and successful efforts at structural adjustment, which have increased education and provision of health care and made decisive improvements in the status of women.

149. Through events such as the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, and the Fourth World Conference on Women, the role of women in poverty reduction is being recognized. In this regard, the Fund is beginning to explore, in close consultation with the World Bank, the possibility of developing and designing a gender-sensitive training programme for Fund staff.

III. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

150. Following the visit of the Facilitating Committee of the Forum to China last June, the NGO Forum on Women and the China Organizing Committee have signed a letter of agreement regarding arrangements for the Forum. The site of the Forum will be the historic Beijing Worker's Sports Services Centre, located approximately 20 minutes by bus from the site of the Fourth World Conference on Women, and transportation will be available between the Forum and Conference sites. The site will include a resource centre for non-governmental organizations, space for workshops and plenary sessions. To meet the critical need for accurate and timely information, the Forum, in cooperation with the private sector, plans to use people-oriented technology in order to support the work of non-governmental organizations at the Forum.

151. The NGO Forum on Women has adopted the slogan "Look at the world through women's eyes". For the 10 days of the Forum, participants will run workshops, seminars, plenary sessions, photo and art exhibitions, markets and a variety of cultural events. Through their work at the Forum, non-governmental organizations will discuss the draft platform for action and devise strategies to implement women's vision for the world in the twenty-first century.

152. The Planning Committee of the NGO Forum on Women is implementing a strong information strategy to respond to the wide interest of non-governmental organizations planning to participate in the Forum. It is working towards the largest possible outreach, through regional focal points, already existing networks, electronic communications, media, as well as through non-governmental organizations.

153. Non-governmental organizations that wish to sponsor activities on-site are requested to inform the Planning Committee by completing an activity request form designed for this purpose. With the help of a computerized database, the NGO Forum on Women will match organizations proposing similar activities and encourage collaborative planning. Non-governmental organizations world wide have been preparing for months for Beijing, and the creative and strategic minds of women are evident in their activity proposals, which include issues such as science and technology, sexual and reproductive rights, spirituality, the

environment, sustainable development and multiple art forms. The deadline for submitting activity requests and registration forms to the Forum office, located in New York, is 30 April 1995.

154. The Forum wishes to represent the diversity of women's experiences by including grass-roots groups, youth, indigenous women, and women who would otherwise never be able to attend such an important international gathering. The Send a Sister to Beijing Campaign, which was only recently launched, was created to raise travel funds for the participation of these types of women.

Notes

1/ World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

3/ "Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994" (A/CONF.171/13 and Add.1), resolution I, chap. II.